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WASHINGTON -- Today, President Bush signed into law a package of homeland security measures, including two proposed by U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), which address public transportation and rail security and mark his first legislative initiatives to become law as a freshman member of the House of Representatives.

The first provision requires American citizenship for those coordinating the development and implementation of rail security plans. The second requires the physical testing of rail tank cars carrying hazardous materials to make them more resistant to a terrorist attack.

"I am very pleased that the President signed this bill, which will improve America's homeland security," said Bilirakis. "I am pleased that two of my provisions are included in the bill to address the critical needs of our rail and public transportation security."

Since beginning his first term last January, Congressman Bilirakis has been an active member of the House Homeland Security Committee, proposing several legislative initiatives, including two bills:

- H.R. 2490 would strengthen national maritime security screening on interdicted aliens against Department of Homeland Security (DHS) biometric watch lists.
- H. Res. 549 would recognize the importance of increasing maritime domain awareness and supporting the goals of America's Waterway Watch (AWW) program.

Bilirakis has also been very active in efforts to expedite the completion of the US-VISIT entry-exit system and resolve discrepancies between Florida's port access credentials and its federal counterpart.

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